



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 27, 2000

H.R. 4899 **Pacific Charter Commission Act of 2000**

As passed by the House on September 25, 2000

H.R. 4899 would establish a new commission to study, promote, and report to the President and the Congress on U.S. foreign policy in the Pacific region of Asia. The commission's purpose would be to support democracy, free trade, and economic and military security in the Pacific region. CBO estimates that implementing the act would cost \$2 million in 2001 and \$12 million over the 2001-2005 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

The act would authorize appropriations of \$2.5 million a year in 2001 and 2002 to fund the commission and would terminate the commission after five years. CBO assumed that funding over the 2003-2005 period would be equal to the 2002 authorization adjusted for inflation. We used historical spending rates for similar appropriations to estimate outlays.

In addition, H.R. 4899 would allow the commission to collect and spend gifts or contributions without further appropriation action. Thus, the act would affect direct spending, and pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. However, CBO estimates that the amounts involved would be insignificant.

H.R. 4899 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact is Sunita D'Monte. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.